Approved for Release: 2016/05/26 C06224740

TOP SECRET

(b)(3)

25 July 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

*Tunisia-France: Tunisian officials consider that Hammarskjold's presence in the country will forestall a Soviet move to reconvene the Security Council. Hammarskjold is expected to recommend some continuing UN presence in Tunisia to observe the implementation of the Security Council's cease-fire resolution of 22 July. (b)(3)

No meeting has yet occurred between the Tunisian governor and the French base commander who have been asked by their governments to arrange the details of the cease-fire and the status of the city of Bizerte. Tunisian Defense Minister Ladgham on 24 July described the current situation as still "dangerous" and said the French were using the cease-fire to improve their position. Bourguiba has reiterated that a cease-fire and return to the status quo ante will by no means satisfy him and that France must agree to the principle of evacuation of Bizerte and begin negotiations on such evacuation in the near future. (b)(3)

Rumors that new French reinforcements had arrived were partially confirmed [redacted] it was "likely" some troops arrived with a warship whose main mission was to repatriate to France some 300 families of French soldiers. Simultaneously, the arrival early 24 July of the first unit of Tunisian troops recalled from the Congo should substantially boost Tunisian morale. (b)(1) (b)(3)

Although Bourguiba will welcome the symbolic gesture of the Arab League in offering to supply "volunteers" to assist the Tunisian Government, he probably will be hesitant to have any appreciable number of Arab soldiers actually reach Tunisia. Ladgham told the American ambassador on 24 July that aid offers of men and military advisers were being received from many countries and that his government has decided to "accept in principle at least, and at manageable levels." [redacted] (b)(3)

[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

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